

## AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A feeding arrangement for the individual feeding of timber (10) to a downwardly moving conveyor (2), comprising:

B) an incoming conveyor (7) for the supply of timber pieces and projecting carriers (23) on the downwardly moving conveyor,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the carriers (23) incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor (2); that a curved guide space (21) defined by guide rails (17, 22) is disposed to overlap an upper region of the downwardly moving conveyor (2) with a lower end portion; and that the angle of curvature of the guide space is so great that the upper side of a timber piece (10) coming to the guide space will be turned downwards when the timber piece rests on a carrier.

2. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the incoming conveyor (7) has an end portion facing towards the guide space (21) which is approximately horizontal; and that, the guide space has an angle of curvature downwards which is approximately 90° or greater.

3. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ wherein a synchronisation conveyor (13) which extends from the discharge end of the incoming conveyor (7) and through the guide space (21), said synchronisation conveyor having arrest members (14) against which rest the front edges of the timber pieces (10) in the direction of movement.

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4. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein drive means (18) is disposed along at least a part of the path of the synchronisation conveyor (13), said drive means being operative to act on the timber pieces (10) at a speed which is greater than the speed of the synchronisation conveyor.

5. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the carriers (23) have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space (21) when the carrier departs from the guide space.

6. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said drive means (18) includes a circulating belt on which rest the timber pieces (10).

7. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterised by~~ wherein a synchronisation conveyor (13) which extends from the discharge end of the incoming conveyor (7) and through the guide space (21), said synchronisation conveyor having arrest members (14) against which rest the front edges of the timber pieces (10) in the direction of movement.

8. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the carriers (23) have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space (21) when the carrier departs from the guide space.

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9. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the carriers (23) have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with  
the curving path of the guide space (21) when the carrier departs from the guide space.

10. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the carriers (23) have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with  
the curving path of the guide space (21) when the carrier departs from the guide space.

11. (Currently Amended) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein said drive means (18) includes a circulating belt on which rest the timber pieces (10).

12. (New) A feeding arrangement for the feeding of individual timber pieces onto a downwardly  
moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces;

carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor, said carriers incline obliquely downwards  
in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor;

guide rails defining therebetween a downwardly curved guide space, said guide rails  
being stationary and located to overlap, with lower portions thereof, an upper part of the  
downwardly moving conveyor, and an angle of curvature of said guide space being so great that  
an upper side of a timber piece entering the guide space is facing downwardly when that timber  
piece has reached and is resting on a carrier.

13. (New) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the incoming conveyor has an end portion facing towards the guide space which is approximately horizontal; and that, the guide space has an angle of curvature downwards which is approximately 90° or greater.

14. (New) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 12, wherein a synchronisation conveyor which extends from the discharge end of the incoming conveyor and through the guide space, said synchronisation conveyor having arrest members (14) against which rest the front edges of the timber pieces in the direction of movement.

15. (New) The feeder arrangement as claimed in 14, wherein drive means is disposed along at least a part of the path of the synchronisation conveyor, said drive means being operative to act on the timber pieces at a speed which is greater than the speed of the synchronisation conveyor.

16. (New) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the carriers have a longitudinal direction which approximately forms a tangent with the curving path of the guide space when the carrier departs from the guide space.

17. (New) The feeder arrangement as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said drive means includes a circulating belt on which rest the timber pieces.

18. (New) A feeding arrangement for the feeding of individual timber pieces onto a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of timber pieces;

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carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor, said carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction out from the downwardly moving conveyor;

an inner and one outer curved guide rail defining therebetween a downwardly curved guide space, said inner guide rail having an angle of curvature exceeding  $90^\circ$  whereby said guide space diverges in a downward direction at a lower end portion thereof, said carriers of the downwardly moving conveyor passing through this lower end portion of the guide space to receive and carry away timber pieces passing through the guide space.

19. (New) A feeding arrangement for the feeding of timber pieces onto a downwardly moving conveyor, comprising:

an incoming conveyor for the supply of individual timber pieces;

carriers on the downwardly moving conveyor, said carriers following a substantially vertical path of travel;

drive means for receiving timber pieces from the incoming conveyor, said drive means having a linear speed of travel greater than that of the incoming conveyor;

a synchronisation conveyor having arrest means, said arrest means following a downwardly curved path of travel from the drive means to an upper end portion of the downwardly moving conveyor, said arrest means further moving in synchronism with the carriers of the downwardly moving conveyor, said arrest means also being configured for transferring timber pieces from the drive means and delivering them on to the carriers of the downwardly moving conveyor.

B) 20. (New) Arrangement according to claim 19 wherein one inner and one outer guide rail are provided along a downwardly curved portion of the synchronisation conveyor, said guide rails defining therebetween a guide space into which the arrest means extend.

21. (New) Arrangement according to 19, wherein the inner guide rail has an angle of curvature greater than  $90^\circ$ , whereby the upper side of a timber piece entering the guide space is facing downwards when that timber piece has been delivered onto a carrier of the downwardly moving conveyor.

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